IV. Purchase of a motor car for the State.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The resolution standing in my name runs thus:—"Since the Government of Cochin has no State conveyance of its own, this Council recommends that the Government may be pleased to purchase at least one motor car for the use of State Guests, etc., so that the palace conveyances may not be used for such State purposes.".

The resolution has to be moved with considerable restraint for one is likely to tread on forbidden ground in this matter as the palace is a non-votable item and we cannot enter its precincts.

Deputy President.—We can.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—If that is so, I thank you for it.

Deputy President.—Yes, yes, you cannot.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Yes. I shall avoid all direct reference. Fortunately we have very nearly 250 members in the Royal family but unfortunately the number of cars including the buses intended for them is not more than 20. I am speaking subject to correction. There are a few coaches too. In these days when every individual wants a car for himself this number is too insufficient for palace purposes. The object of the resolution is the people of Cochin should not be held responsible for this inconvenience to the Royal family for palace cars are now used for State purposes and we shall not require the services of palace cars in future if we keep separate conveyances for State purposes.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What are the State purposes?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—All purposes other than palace purposes are included in the term 'State purposes'. This brings to my mind the story of an incident when His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda was camping on Shikari in the forests of the Raja of Kollencode. A European gentleman who accompanied the party had to leave the place at once for Madras on receipt of a telegram. The only car available on the spot at the moment was that of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda. So His Highness was approached whether the car could be spared for his use. His Highness readily consented. At the same time His Highness called his chauffeur to his side and told him to take back the car to Madras for overhauling. It was never the custom of His Highness the Gaekwar to use a car in which another man has taken seat. If the members of our Royal family insist upon that rule, I don't know how many times a day they will have to get the cars overhauled. We, the representatives of the people of Cochin, shall not bear the blame for

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this state of affairs. We shall make separate provision for cars for State purposes and leave the palace alone. So I recommend that this resolution may be taken up for the consideration of this House.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള കോവിലകം വണ്ടികൾ കോവിലകത്തുള്ളവർക്കു തന്നെ മതിയാകുന്നില്ലെന്നും ആവശ്യത്തിനു വേണ്ടുന്നത്ര കിട്ടാറില്ലെന്നും ഒരു ആക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു വേറെ ഉണ്ടായേക്കാവുന്ന ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി വണ്ടി വേറെതന്നെ വാങ്ങുന്നതാണു് നല്ലതു്. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള വണ്ടികൾ ആവശ്യത്തിനു കിട്ടാത്തതിനാൽ കോവിലകത്തുള്ളവർ ചിലപ്പോൾ കാളവണ്ടികളിൽ പോലും സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണു് അറിവു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാമൻ.—അങ്ങനെയും ഉണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—അതിനാൽ അതാവശ്യകം കായും മറ്റും ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടി പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു കാർ വാങ്ങുന്നതിൽ അനൌചിത്യം കാണുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു.

Deputy President.—Your resolution is to purchase at least one car for the State purposes.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I rise to oppose this motion because the mover himself does not make clear what the other state purposes are. If I understand him right, it is the entertainment of the State guests. The State guests are His Highness' guests. What is more appropriate than to place a few of His Highness' cars at the disposal of his guests?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There are many other cars which can be utilised for the purpose.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The car utilised for the personal use of His Highness need not be placed at the disposal of His Highness' guests. There are many other cars which can be placed at His Highness' guests' disposal. There is nothing wrong. I am glad that our princes do not take up the attitude of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda. Hence, I do not find any necessity at all to discuss the matter any further.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I rise to support this resolution and in doing so, if I speak out bluntly I hope the Members sitting on the opposite side should not construe it as a personal reference. All I say will be facts and it is good for us sometimes to be spoken to plainly and bluntly. What would the public think about this? There are only 20 motor cars or vehicles for the use of the palace. Yesterday, while I was coming from Trippunittura, I had the misfortune to see the Royal ladies going in buses and at the same time I have seen people

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coming from outside, who may be guests, but by no means men of such importance, driving in the most luxurious State cars.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A point of order, Sir. That is no reason why we want cars.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I shall prove that it is necessary.

Deputy President.—What is the connection between this and the State guests?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You will hear when I proceed and see how I connect it. You don't hear me. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That trend of objection to the nature of cars cannot be allowed.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I said was regarding the quality and nature of the cars. I don't know why the Hon'ble Member did not take objection when reference was made to His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda and the Hon'ble Member was saying how nice our princes did not take objection to ride in cars that were utilised by others. I do not drag this any further and there was nothing objectionable. It is a statement of facts. Why not the old cars be reserved for the use of State purposes and the new cars reserved for the use of the Royal family? I don't think any other person has a better claim to use the newly-purchased cars than the members of our Royal family, and hence they must be kept specially for the use of the Royal family.

Therefore, since we cannot by any means make an allotment of some of these cars for the members of the Royal family, if you will follow his suggestion and if you keep a number of cars for the purposes of other people I honestly believe that one or two good cars can be placed at their disposal. We have the greatest respect for the members of the Royal family. Therefore on this ground I support this resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I rise to contribute two words in support of this resolution. Difficulty has been brought into existence by the Government themselves. I think during the budget session I raised a point that cars should necessarily be made an item of discussion here. A few cars intended for the palace purposes may be kept under reserved subjects and other cars bought for the State may be made votable in this House. Unfortunately a statement was made in this House that all cars are His Highness' cars and they can be used by any one with the permission of His Highness. That was the statement made in this House.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Strictly speaking those conveyances belonging to the Government belong to the Royal Stable.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think my memory is a bit short. In any way the difficulty can be got out by the Government taking the necessary action.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What is the difficulty?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I said here we have a few cars, as many at least as wanted. The difficulty in discussing here is a point of order being raised—the State guests are His Highness' guests. What more appropriate procedure can be adopted than giving the State guests the Royal State cars?

Deputy President.—What difficulty is there in not having State cars?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The members of the Royal family have to travel in ordinary bullock carts while the State cars are utilised by other privileged classes.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—At least not now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The dignity of the State depends upon the number of State cars.

The civil cars may be separated from the State cars. The cars purchased by the money of the State should be votable in this House. The cars purchased for His Highness' personal use will not be votable. We hope the Government will not be stingy when money is demanded to purchase cars for the personal use of His Highness' Royal family.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If the argument is further carried the palace funds will have to be voted.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—You don't take the State guests to palaces.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Where is the necessity for State cars?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There are no State cars as such.

Deputy President.—There is no necessity. His Highness is prepared to accommodate the State guests in his cars. We don't want cars, at present.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have as much respect for His Highness as you have.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, from the wording of the resolution it would seem that the Government or State has no conveyance of its own. This is not correct. All the cars and carriages in the Stables belong to the Government. The mover, it would appear, wants to make a distinction between the State and His Highness. The constitution of the Government, as already explained in this Council, does not warrant any such distinction. The Government is 'His Highness the Maharaja.' The cars and carriages in the Royal Stables are all Government or State cars and the labels put on the cars will show that they are such and therefore it cannot at all be said that the Government has no State conveyance of its own. The items 'cars and Sirkar horses, carriages, etc.', however, are non-votable.

As for the second part of the resolution, State guests are His Highness' guests. No officer of the Government is em-

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powered to entertain State guests. State cars are being utilised for the use of guests and when and where they are not available cars used to be hired for the occasions. No useful purpose will be served by setting apart a separate car for State guests, as it is not every day that State guests are entertained. No inconvenience or difficulty has been felt till now nor is any inconvenience anticipated in this matter in future. Further a single car will not at all be sufficient for such purposes. With all the cars that we now have we are not able to meet all the demands connected with the various functions when distinguished guests are entertained in the State and we find it often necessary to engage private cars on hire. So the purchase of a single car for this specific purpose will in no way meet the object in view.

I therefore oppose the resolution.

Deputy President.—The question before the House is that the Government may be pleased at least to purchase one motor car for the use of the State guests, etc., so that the Palace conveyances may not be used for such State purposes.

(*The resolution was put to the vote and lost.*)

Deputy President.—The next meeting will be after the 15th of Kumbham.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I take this opportunity of thanking you for kindly functioning the proceedings of this meeting.

The Council was then adjourned at 4-7 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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